

# Who must be included in the SIS<sup>®</sup> Interview?



*This handout helps identify participants who must be included in the SIS<sup>®</sup> interview as part of the respondent team.*

AAIDD, the authors of the Supports Intensity Scale<sup>®</sup> or SIS<sup>®</sup> have developed specific requirements about who must participate in a SIS<sup>®</sup> interview in order for it to be scored against national norming tables and to be considered a valid assessment.

According to AAIDD:

1. **The person being assessed** always chooses his/her own level of engagement in the SIS<sup>®</sup> interview. People may choose to attend the entire interview, attend a portion, or not attend at all. Active participation is strongly encouraged in discussions and information sharing but is not required. If the person chooses not to participate in the interview, it is important that the SIS<sup>®</sup> assessor have the opportunity to meet the person.
2. **Everyone** attending the interview is free to share in discussions and help clarify ratings when they have helpful information to share.
3. **AAIDD requires that at least two people** in the SIS<sup>®</sup> interview, meet AAIDD SIS<sup>®</sup> Respondent-Criteria. Specifically, this means:
  - At least 2 respondents must be present and engaged throughout the course of the *entire* interview.
  - Respondents must have known the person for at least 3 months and must have recent opportunities to observe the person in one or more environments for substantial periods of time (at least several hours per setting).
  - Respondents can be parents, relatives, guardians, DSP, work supervisors, teachers or any other individual who works or lives with the person .
  - Respondent must understand and be able to discuss supports a person needs to be successful in both current and potential situations.
  - Respondents must be open to thinking with and about the person in potentially new ways.
  - If several respondents attend, as long as two stay, others may come and go (e.g., the job coach may come for the introduction and the employment sections only).

## Important Implications about AAIDD SIS<sup>®</sup> interview requirements:

**Independent Support Coordinators** (ISCs) are encouraged to help with interview discussions when they have relevant information to share. For scheduling and assessment purposes, however, AAIDD will consider them to be one of the two RCs only if they meet all of AAIDD's criteria.

**General interview considerations:** ❶ The larger the group the longer the interview will be; ❷ The better the group knows the individual's day-to-day support needs, the quicker the interview will be; and ❸ Every person wanting to take part in the discussion should be present at the beginning for the introduction of the rating scales and SIS<sup>®</sup> philosophy. Otherwise this information must be repeated and the interview will last longer.

**Information for States, Providers, and Other Interested Parties** (Revised 01-26-12)